

Claims

1. A polynucleotide sequence encoding a mouse parkin2 protein, containing naturally occurring or artificially introduced mutations or deletions, which cause Parkinson's disease in a human if they occur in the according human sequence.
2. The sequence of claim 1, wherein the sequence is genomic DNA, coding for a full-length parkin gene or fragments thereof, cDNA of a full length parkin gene or fragments thereof, or RNA of a full length parkin gene or fragments thereof.
3. The sequence of claim 1 or 2, wherein the sequence is selected from the group, consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7 SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20 or naturally occurring or artificially introduced mutants or fragments thereof.
4. A vector, containing any sequence according to any of claims 1 to 3.
5. A prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell, containing a vector according to claim 4.
6. The cell of claim 5, characterised in that the cell is selected from bacterial or yeast cells, insect cells or mammalian cells as primary cells or immortalised cell lines.
7. A parkin mouse protein with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6 SEQ. ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:34 or

naturally occurring or artificially introduced mutants with a homologous protein sequence or fragments thereof.

- 5 8. A transgenic non-human animal, whose one or both alleles of a gene encoding a parkin gene are mutated or truncated in a way, that a protein with modified, preferred less activity or no active protein is expressed.
- 10 9. The transgenic animal of claim 8, wherein the parkin gene has any mutation or deletion which are known to cause Parkinson's disease in a human if they occur in the according human sequence.
- 15 10. The transgenic non-human animal of claim 8 or 9, carrying a mutation or deletion in one or both alleles of a gene encoding a parkin protein, such that expression of said parkin gene produces a mutated or truncated protein or no protein, which causes said animal to display any physiological, biochemical or molecular biological features of a neurodegenerative disease.
- 20 11. The transgenic non-human animal of claim 10, carrying a deletion in one or both alleles of any of the exons of the gene encoding the parkin protein.
- 25 12. The transgenic non-human animal of any of claims 8 to 11, carrying a DNA sequence according to any of the sequences SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19 or SEQ ID NO:20.
- 30 13. A mammalian cell-line transformed or transfected with any sequence according to any of claims 1 to 3 or a vector according to claim 4 or

cell lines or primary cultures derived from the transgenic animal of any of claims 8 to 12.

14. A method of producing a transgenic animal according to any of claims 8 to 12 or a cell line according to claim 13.

15. Use of the transgenic non-human animal according to any of claims 8 to 12 or a cell line according to claim 13 as a model for neurodegenerative diseases.

16. A method for analyzing the symptoms of neurodegenerative diseases, either outside of a living body using any of the polynucleotide sequences of any of claims 1 to 4, any of the protein sequences of claim 7, or using any model according to claim 15.

17. A method for testing the efficacy of a treatment for a neurodegenerative disease associated with a less active or non-active parkin protein, comprising subjecting any model of claim 15 to a putative treatment and determining the efficacy of said treatment.

18. The method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Multisystem atrophy, Wilson's disease, Pick's disease, Prion disease, or second causes inducing Parkinson's syndromes like toxins, drugs, brain tumors, head trauma, stroke, vascular irregularities, or metabolic irregularities.

19. The method of any of claims 17 to 19, wherein said treatment comprises administering an active substance to the model.

20. Use of any model according to claim 15 for testing whether an active substance is useful for treating a condition associated with non-active parkin protein comprising administering said active substance to the transgenic animal of any of claims 8 to 12 or a cell-line of claim 13, and determining a level of the active substance, which causes an effect in treating the disease.

21. Use of the animal according to any of claims 8 to 12 as a model for examination of behaviour during the development of a neurodegenerative disease, or any model according to claim 15 for examination of pathobiochemical, immunobiological, neurological as well as histochemical effects of neurodegenerative diseases, physiological and molecular biological correlation of the disease, for studies of drug effects and for determination of effective drug doses and toxicity.

22. Descendant of the transgenic animal according to any of claims 8 to 12, obtained by breeding with the same or any other genotype.

add 22)